

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1008

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 0950

1. BYLINED ARTICLE IN INFLUENTIAL TIMES INTERNATIONAL
OF JAN. 23 SUMMED UP ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO'S VISIT
TO NIGERIA, REPEATING SOME POINTS MADE IN REFTEL. OPENING
PARAGRAPH QUESTIONED WHY NETO HAD DELAYED HIS VISIT FOR
SO LONG, NOTING THAT "THE VICTORIOUS MPLA GOVERNMENT HAS
GIVEN US MORE THAN ONE REASON TO REGARD IT WITH
SUSPICION." THESE REASONS DELINEATED AS LUKEWARM ATTITUDE
BORDERING ON COLD RECEPTION ACCORDED GARBA WHENEVER
HE VISITS ANGOLA, UNCENSUMMATED TRADE AND COOPERATION
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AND FISHERIES TREATIES AND " CAREFREE ATTITUDE
SHOWN BY LUANDA GOVERNMENT AT DEATH OF HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED."

2. TIMES ARTICLE ALSO SAID THAT MPLA GOVERNMENT AS IT SETTLED
DOWN TO POWER "GOT INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS OF OTHER AFRICAN
COUNTRIES WHO ARE THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE RACISTS.....IF ONE ARGUES THAT RELATIONS WITH

THESE COUNTRIES BECAME SOUR FOR MORE THAN MERE
IDEOLOGICAL REASONS, HOW THEN DOES ONE EXPLAIN THE
LUKEWARM ATTITUDE THE MPLA GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN TOWARDS
DISTANT NIGERIA THAT NEITHER HAS A SCORE NOR A BORDER TO
SETTLE WITH ANGOLA.

3. ALTHOUGH NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO NETO'S LECTURE ON
SCIENTIFIC SOLICIALISM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, THE ARTICLE
WENT ON TO SAY THAT "IT WILL DO A LOT OF GOOD IF PRESIDENT

NETO AND HIS COMRADES STOP THINKING IN IDEOLOGICAL TERMS,
AT LEAST IN MATTERS RELATING TO AFRICAN INTEREST."

4. TIME'S ARTICLE ENDED ON UP-BEAT NOTE SAYING THAT AFTER
VISITING BAUCHI AND BORNE STATES, NETO COULD SEE THAT EVEN
TOPOGRAPHY OF ANGOLA AND NIGERIA IS SIMILAR. "WE
THEREFORE EXPECT THAT DR. NETO HAS GONE BACK HOME HAVING
SHED ALL THE SUSPICIONS HE MUST HAVE
HARBOURED ABOUT NIGERIA AND ITS PEOPLE. IN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS, THEREFORE, WE EXPECT TO SEE NIGERIA-ANGOLA
RELATIONS MOVE IN THE POSITIVE DIRECTION THEY SHOULD HAVE
DONE LONG BEFORE NOW."

5. COMMENT: EMBOFFS FROM US, CANADIAN AND FRG
MISSIONS, IN COMPARING NOTES FOUND THAT ALL STRUCK OUT
IN TRYING TO ELICIT INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS MEA OFFICIALS ON
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VETO VISIT. CANADIAN HEAD OF CHANCERY REPORTED THAT MEA
PERMSEC SANUSI HAD TOLD CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IMMEDIATELY
PRIOR TO NETO VISIT THAT NIGERIANS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN
GETTING MACHEL'S AGREEMENT TO PUT PRESSURE ON SAM
NUJOMA TO BE MORE TRACTABLE IN NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS
AND WERE PLANNING ALSO TO ENLIST NETO DURING VISIT.
IN POST VISIT DISCUSSION WITH CANADIANS, NIGERIANS
WERE NOT EVEN FORTHCOMING ON THIS SUBJECT.
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